



**AFRICAN AERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2012**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Clifford Gillard

Daryl Horton
Nelson Linder, Co-Chair
Greg Smith

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason Alexander
Joe Barnes
Patricia Bourenane
Carrie Brown

Melodye Foust
Susan Gehring
Sandra Harkins
Dusty McCormick

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Commissioner Eugene.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Steve Swanson addressed the commission to follow up on a presentation from the February meeting on the Judicial Support Task Force stating that he would be in touch with Commissioners Linder and Cherry as they had volunteered to be part of the citizen group.

Jim Rath addressed the commission concerning Capital Metro and train noise. Mr. Rath worked with neighbors and Capital Metro to address the issue of "quiet zones" in East Austin reducing the noise from trains considerably. He wants to work with the neighborhood to address other issues and asked the commission if they knew of any other issues that needed to be addressed with Capital Metro.

Gene Mays addressed the commission concerning East 12th Street Revitalization which he feels does not address continuity of African American businesses on East 12th Street.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 1, 2012 REGULAR MEETING.

The minutes stand as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Presentation on the photographs selected for the Art in Public Places mural at the African American Cultural Heritage Facility (Carrie Brown, Art in Public Places, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Ms. Carrie Brown stated that the process for the mural is moving ahead on schedule to be completed on time for the opening of the facility. Commissioner Eugene presented the top 100 names that have been collected. Commissioner Eugene stated that an additional 75 names have been collected by the Working Group since it has been determined that there may be difficulty obtaining usable photographs for some of the top 100 individuals.

- b. **Report from Working Group on Resolution concerning African American health & mental health issues**

Commissioners Cherry and Linder met with a representative of the Housing Authority.

c. Reports from Commissioners on attending other Boards' and Commissions' meetings

Commissioner Cherry attended the Charter Revision Task Force meeting. Commissioner Eugene attended the Commission for Women.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Presentation on services for the homeless (Susan Gehring, Health & Human Services Dept.)

Ms. Gehring presented information on homelessness in the Austin area providing definitions of homeless and the types of services provided by the City of Austin. Ms. Gehring also provided demographics of the homeless population.

b. Presentation on the 2012-12 Action Plan process (Patricia Bourenane, Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Dept.)

Ms. Bourenane provided information on the process the City of Austin goes through to develop their Action Plan. The Action Plan outlines how the City of Austin plans to use funding provided by the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development to provide services for housing, community development, and public service needs.

c. Review, Discuss & Approve Commission Annual Report to City Council (Dr. Chiquita Eugene)

The report was approved and will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

d. Set agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff)

The April agenda will include reports from the Working Group concerning the information request to Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Working Group working on a Resolution concerning African American health & mental health issues

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.